

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 16, 2004, claims 21-31 are pending and rejected.

The above amendment is submitted to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification; see particularly page 17, bottom of page and page 34, lines 9-11.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The examiner states that "the specification, while being enabled for having an integrator 90 coupled to the results of multipliers 82 in figure 8, does not reasonably provide enablement for an integrator coupled to accumulating means. Applicants do not agree. The "means for selecting and accumulating the resultants of the multiplication for a time duration substantially equal in length to that of a data period of the RF signals, to produce said plurality of correlation coefficients," as set forth in claims 27 and 29, refers to the described correlator or its equivalent.

Applicants submit that it is well known to those skilled in the art that the operation of a correlator includes an accumulating operation: see US 5,259,033 for example, which the examiner cites as prior art describing a correlator, also uses this term. Thus, although the description does not explicitly refer to accumulating means, Applicants submit that the wording is clear from common general knowledge, and one skilled in the art would therefore have no difficulty in understanding that a correlator is the claimed accumulating means.

Thus, in claim 29, the wording stating that the integrating means are coupled to the output of the selecting and accumulating means makes it clear that the integrating means are in fact coupled to the output of the correlator.

Claims 21-28, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the admitted prior art (APA) in view of Goodings (US 5,259,033). Although there are similarities between the present invention and the cited prior art, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest a delay in the amplification path **which is greater than** the delay in the feedback path. Thus, the prior art also fails to recognize or suggest any advantages obtained using a delay in the amplification path which is greater than the delay in the feedback path.

Applicants have discovered that the specific delay taught and claimed by the present invention, as set forth in claim 21, makes it possible for the correlation process to measure directly (without cross talk), the corrections to be applied to the FIR coefficients to ensure that the feedback is accurately cancelled.

If the delay is allowed to approach zero, although the system still works, the coefficients take longer to stabilize and, therefore, the ability of the system to respond to changing conditions is limited. If the delay is allowed to approach zero, the correction effectively takes place in the form of a wave, in which the first coefficient initially settles, allowing the second coefficient to be measured without cross talk, then the third and so on.

In the present invention, the inclusion in the system of a delay **having a period greater than** the delay in the feedback path therefore has an advantageous effect on the ability of the system to cope with rapid changes. This is not recognized by the prior art, and Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art based on the cited prior art.

The other pending claims depend from claim 21 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

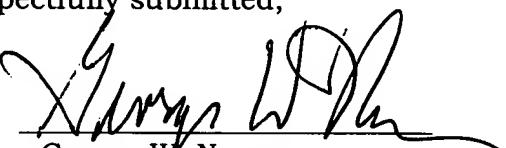
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of any combination of the APA and Goodings.

In view of the discussion above, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

If for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


George W. Neuner
Reg. No. 26,964

Date: September 16, 2004

Edwards & Angell, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
(617) 439- 4444

Customer No. 21874

BOS2_458472.1